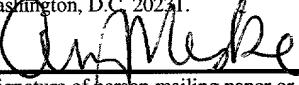


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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re continuation patent application of:)
Loren J. Field et al.) Before the Examiner
Application No.: New U.S. Continuation)
Application Filed Herewith) Group Art Unit
Filed: December 18, 2001)
)

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D. C. 20231

Sir:

Please enter the following Preliminary Amendment for the above-entitled patent application. Please charge any fees due or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-3030, but not to include issue fees.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please add the following immediately after the title:

--this Invention was made with government support under Grant Numbers HL-45453 and HL-61631 awarded by the National Institutes of Health. The government has certain rights in the invention.--

Please amend the first paragraph on page 1 of the Patent Application under the heading "REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION" to read as follows:

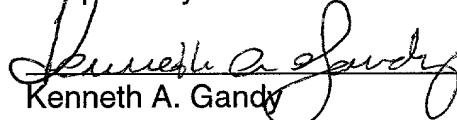
--The present application is a continuation of International Patent Application No. PCT/US00/16827 filed June 19, 2000 designating the United States and published in English, which claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Patent Application, Serial No. 60/139,942, filed June 18, 1999, each of which is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety.--

REMARKS

The present Application is a continuation of International Patent Application No. PCT/US00/16827 filed June 19, 2000 and claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/139,942, filed June 18, 1999. This Preliminary Amendment amends the specification to reflect this status and to add a government rights clause.

Consideration of the present application as amended is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted:


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